

Organizing Joint Action on Integrated Solid Waste Management



INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Notes 3

Environmental Management



Over the past two years, at least 15 city and municipal governments have successfully applied innovative consensus building methods.

The Need for Consensus on Integrated Solid Waste Management

Many efforts to deal with the solid waste problem through independent actions either by the local government or the private sector have faced sustainability problems. In many municipalities, the "Clean and Green" campaign is usually effective only until a winner is declared. Citizens' initiative is often hard to sustain after this. Many Clean and Green Programs are besieged by rising operational costs that cannot be indefinitely supported by the local government's budget. In some instances, the private sector has taken the initiative, piloting segregation and recycling efforts. NGO-piloted recycling efforts start well but can be derailed by multiple factors including garbage collectors not paying attention to segregated garbage. Such unsuccessful compartmentalized ventures indicate that a common understanding and articulation of the necessary response is yet to be reached. No doubt, both the local government and citizens have to work together. However, consensus must be achieved first.

Building multi-sectoral consensus is not an easy task. Some municipalities fear it slows down the pace of making decisions because of too much discussion and debate. Surveys and public hearings make the process expensive. However, over the past two years, at least fifteen city and municipal governments have applied innovative consensus-building methods. These have addressed the above concerns successfully leading to successful programs.

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Technology

Consensus Building

Here are some useful guidelines in organizing a Consensus Building Workshop:

- Recognize the stages of the solid waste management system: waste generation, storage, collection, treatment, and collection and disposal. Actions in any single stage need to have complementary actions in other stages.
- Identify concerned groups or stakeholders, and know their views. Stakeholders will include key sectors of waste generators, e.g., subdivisions, institutions, factories, markets; waste processors like junk shops, recycling material collection centers, scavengers; and service providers like government-employed or government-contracted garbage collectors and NGO-piloted recycling projects.
- Organize a multi-sectoral action team composed of concerned individuals from the local government and the private sector to develop specific action programs. The team will also

monitor the implementation of the program.

- Visit other local governments with innovative practices. This exposure to other sites will enable local decision-makers to expand their choice of viable options.
- Conduct a multi-sectoral strategic planning workshop using innovative facilitation methods such as the Technology of Participation (ToP). Participants

develop a unified understanding of the problem, develop a shared practical vision and strategy, and define priority doable actions. The workshop should coincide with the local government's regular planning and budgeting cycle.

- Invite resource persons who will provide information and advice on opportunities provided by new policies, technical innovations, and actual best practices by other municipalities.

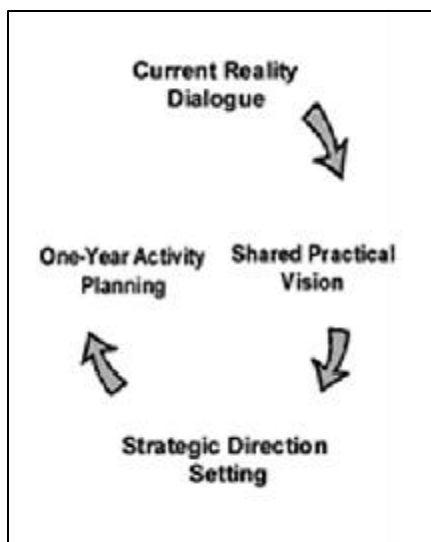


Consensus Building Workshop on ISWM in progress.

Technology of Participation

Technology of Participation (ToP) is a facilitation method already used by numerous local governments. It provides practical tools that enable highly energized, productive, and meaningful participation in key decision-making processes.

When used as a tool in consensus-building, ToP utilizes: a) a set context and focus question; b) brainstorming using idea cards to generate ideas individually, in small groups, and in plenary; c) clustering idea cards to form new relationships and group similar brainstorm ideas; and, d) titling of idea clusters to discern collective insights and articulate group consensus. The results are decisions and outcomes that every participant owns.



Process flow of a Consensus Building Workshop on ISWM using ToP.

The ToP-assisted workshop also a) allows a large number of participants, which means more owners of the resulting program; b) handles a heterogeneous group; c) allows active individual participation; d) maintains participants' enthusiasm and interest levels through quick-paced activities. A two-day workshop results in: a) Current Reality Dialogue, where participants build consensus and share insights on the overall development situation in the community; b) Shared Practical Vision in which a practical and forward-looking vision of the program is shaped; c) Strategic Direction Setting where specific priority actions are decided on; and d) One- to three-year Activity Plan.



Policy and Practice

Enabling Framework

Republic Act No. 7160 also known as the “Local Government Code of the Philippines” devolves certain powers to the local government units, including the enforcement of laws on cleanliness and sanitation, preparation of a solid waste management program, and other environmental matters. Section 17 mandates barangays and municipalities provide services for solid waste collection and management. Section 3, article I encourages the participation of the private sector in local governance to ensure the viability of local autonomy.

Presidential Decrees 552, 825, 856, and 984 provides the rules and penalties covering sanitation and disposal.

Memorandum Circular No. 39-A of January 19, 1988 from the Office of the President enjoins local governments to establish integrated solid waste management

systems that include management of waste generation; handling and on-site storage; collection, transfer and transport; processing and recovery; and disposal.



R.A. No. 7160 mandates local government units to enact laws on cleanliness and sanitation.

Practices That Are Working

In Kiamba, Sarangani community waste management leaders realized that solid waste management was a growing concern caused by improper waste disposal practices. Limited collection resources and non-enforcement of ordinances compounded the situation. A Rapid Field Appraisal of garbage collection and disposal and a Cross-section Study identifying waste generators and their concerns helped the community understand the solid waste situation faced by the municipality. Technical personnel from government line agencies and NGOs and visits to other community projects helped the community clarify options.

The information guided the municipality in developing a strategy and action plan in a multi-sectoral Integrated Solid Waste Management Workshop. Conducted by a trained facilitator using the Technology of Participation method, key local government and non-government personnel discussed the current situation to create an integrated action program that was both doable and systematic. This organized action helped them win the regional search for the Cleanest and Greenest Municipality two years in a row. Achieving consensus has allowed them to formulate a unified strategy helping

to avoid contradictory responses to a common problem.

The success of the activity is proven by the benefits that the Municipality of Kiamba continues to reap. Previously thought of as purely government action, integrated solid waste management has now become a concern for all. Citizens' participation helped the local government make waste receptacles user-friendly, clarify pick-up points of solid waste, and challenge the lack of enforcement of pertinent legislation. The proactive approach of the municipality has sustained participation and support from the private sector through payment of a Polluters and Garbage Collection Fee from each household and business establishment. To aid enforcement, the municipal government deputized volunteer ISWM enforcers and expanded the duties of police officers to include ISWM. Incentives are provided for the volunteer enforcers from the environmental fees. Also, the formulated action plan has become the basis for the ISWM component of the Municipal Annual Investment Plan.





LGU Action Agenda

Other Initiatives

Numerous local governments nationwide have used the Technology of Participation (ToP) in the preparation of their collaborative program with citizens on Integrated Solid Waste Management.

The **Municipality of Brooke's Point, Palawan** (estimated population: 37,272) has recast its Municipal Clean and Green Program to become part of the local government's Integrated Solid Waste Management Program. To do this, the Municipal Government organized a workshop

that became the venue for broad-based consensus building leading to recognition and awards received from the provincial, regional, and national Clean and Green Search Program. (**Ariston Arzaga**, ESDO. (048) 423-1141-43)

The **Municipality of Sibulan, Negros Oriental** (estimated population: 32,869) the consensus building led to the foundation of a one-to-five year program for education, enforcement, and engineering. (**George Orcullo**, MPDO. (035) 225-1403)



Segregated solid waste being collected by a junkshop in Brooke's Point.

LGUs with ISWM Experience

Some local governments with strong experience in ToP- assisted consensus-building workshops for ISWM:

Solid Waste Management Council
General Santos City
(083) 553-5042
c/o Valiente Lastimoso, Teresita Garay

Environment and Natural Resources Management Division
Provincial Capitol, Dumaguete City
(035) 225-1601
c/o Mercy Teves

Metro Dumaguete Solid Waste Management Program Secretariat
City Planning and Development Office
Dumaguete City
c/o Engr. Josie Antonio

Resources and References

Providers of ToP Training

Bulacan State University
Institute of Local Government Administration
BSU, Malolos, Bulacan
(044) 791-0153
c/o Dr. Modesta Lugos

Divine Word College
DWC Research Center
DWC, Tagbilaran, Bohol
(038) 411-3658
c/o Ms. Cynthia Ayco

Gerry Roxas Foundation
GRF, Dayao, Roxas City
(036) 621-1922
c/o Ms. Annie Villarruz

Sources of Technical Information

- **Recycling Movement of the Philippines**
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. (02) 928-8895; fax (02) 920-6022
c/o Dr. Luz Sabas
- **Presidential Task Force on Waste Management**
[DENR-EMB](#), Visayas Ave., Quezon City
(02) 426-2524
c/o Mr. Nolan Francisco
- **Regional or Provincial Officers**
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- **Regional or Provincial Officers**
[Department of Science and Technology \(DOST\)](#)

Publications

- *Solid Waste Management for Local Governments*. 2nd Ed. DENR-Environmental Management Bureau. Manila: 1998.
- *Local Governments and Citizens in ISWM*. GOLD Occasional Papers No. 98-06. Makati: 1998.
- *Waste Matters: Towards Local Government Excellence in Solid Waste Management*. GOLD Technical Notes No. 98-01. Makati: 1998.